

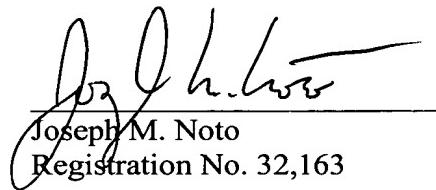
REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing prior to the initial office action on the merits is respectfully requested. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, attached as Appendix A is a version with markings to show changes made to the claims.

Early allowance of the pending claims is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

In reference to the amendments made herein to claims 7, 8, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, and 19, additions appear as underlined text, while deletions appear as bracketed text, as indicated below:

In The Claims:

7. A method according to claim 2 [or claim 3] wherein the solvent includes an alkali selected from an alkali hydroxide, alkali carbonate and mixtures thereof.

8. A method according to claim 2 [or claim 3] wherein the alkali is sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate or mixture thereof.

12. A method according to [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, characterised in that the solution is heated for a period of between 1 to 1,400 hours, thereby increasing antimicrobial activity of the polymers.

13. A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterised in that the solution is heated for a period in the range of from 4 to 60 hours.

16. A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized by the addition of base or alkali to the polymers before and/or during heating, thereby enhancing the antimicrobial activity of the polymers.

17. A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterised in that the release of free acrolein monomer by the acrolein polymer is reduced.

18. An antimicrobial compound or composition prepared by the method of [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1.

19. A preservation disinfectant or antiseptic or composition prepared wholly or in part by method of [any one of claims 1 to 16] claim 1.